

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 14-21, 23, 31, 33, 36 and 51 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-7 and 14-17 are hereby cancelled, leaving claims 18-21, 23, 31, 33, 36 and 51 for consideration upon entry of this Amendment. The Specification and Claims 18, 20, 31 and 33 are hereby amended.

Applicants thank the examiner for helpful suggestions and indication of allowable subject matter.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Amendments to Correct Scrivener's Errors

Paragraph [0043] of the application as filed is hereby amended to correct a scrivener's error in which the word "hepatoma" was presented as "hepatosoma." This correction constitutes the only change in the replacement paragraph [0043] presented above.

Claims 20 and 33 are hereby amended to correct additional occurrences of the same error.

The use of "hepatosoma" in paragraph [0043] and claims 20 and 33 was a scrivener's error and the correct word is "hepatoma." This would be readily recognized by one of ordinary skill, as demonstrated by, for example, the context in which the term appears in paragraph [0043] in the specification ("a human hepatosoma cell line such as Huh-7") as well as by, e.g., the discussion of the Huh7 cell line in Hardy et al., J. Virol. 2003, 77(3) p. 2029-2037, of record: reference 6 of the IDS filed on September 20, 2006. See, e.g., the title and abstract of Hardy et al.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-7, 14-21, 23, 31, 33, 36 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for failing to recite essential elements. In accordance with the examiner's helpful suggestion, Applicants have amended the remaining independent claims (claims 18 and 31) to recite the missing element "nucleotides.". Support for this change can be found, e.g., at paragraph[0048] of the application as filed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Solely in the interest of advancing the application to issue, and without acquiescing in the rejections thereto, all of the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are cancelled hereby without prejudice.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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